

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-4 and 14 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 5-8, 11 and 15 are currently being amended.

Claim 18 is currently being added.

This amendment and reply adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 5-13 and 15-18 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 6 has been placed in independent form to include the features of its base claim 1 and all but one of its intervening claims (it does not include the features of claim 5), whereby presently pending independent claim 6 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Presently pending independent claim 15 has been amended in a manner similar to the amendments made to presently pending claim 6, whereby that claim is also believed to be in condition for allowance. All of the remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 or claim 15, and thus are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Objection to the Drawings:

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because the 'rotating' features of claim 14 were not shown in the drawings. While Applicant reserves the right to include such a figure based on the clear support in the specification, claim 14 has been canceled to thereby moot this objection to the drawings.

Claim Objections:

In the Office Action, claims 4-7 and 14-16 were objected to because of minor informalities noted on page 3 of the Office Action. Those claims have been amended (and the features of claim 4 that have been added to claim 6 have been changed slightly) to address these objections, whereby all of the presently pending claims are believed to be unobjectionable.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 8 and 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,328,415 to Norton et al.; claims 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Norton et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,955,422 to Miyazawa et al.; claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Norton et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,231,160 to Glass; and claims 9 and 10 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Norton et al. in view of Japanese patent application JP 200272097 to Masatoshi. Due to the amendments made to presently pending independent claim 6 so that it includes the features of its base claim 1 and all but one of its intervening claims (it does not include the features of claim 5), and due to similar amendments made to presently pending independent claim 15 (the only other independent claim pending), these rejections are now believed to have been overcome by amendment.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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